

Amendment and Response to Office Action
U.S.S.N.: 09/928,102
Page 5 of 6

Exhibit A

AMENDED CLAIMS—CLEAN FORMAT

15. A method for determining propensity for longevity in a patient, the method comprising the steps of:
- (a) amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region flanked by the genetic markers D4S1564 and D4S1572 on human chromosome 4;
 - (b) comparing said segment with DNA corresponding to said segment obtained from an individual who is at least 98 years of age; and
 - (c) determining propensity for longevity of said patient based upon an identity between said segment obtained from said patient and said segment obtained from said individual who is at least 98 years of age.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of obtaining a DNA sample from a patient.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of obtaining a DNA sample from an individual who is at least 98 years of age.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region flanked by the genetic markers D4S1564 and D4S411 on human chromosome 4.
19. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region flanked by the genetic markers D4S411 and D4S1572 on human chromosome 4.

Amendment and Response to Office Action
U.S.S.N.: 09/928,102
Page 6 of 6

20. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region of 108.0 to 112.6 cM on human chromosome 4.
21. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region of 108.0 to 109.0 cM on human chromosome 4.
22. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) comprises amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region of 109.0 to 112.6 cM on human chromosome 4.